

REMARKS

This response to office action is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed on January 4, 2007. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Applicant kindly thanks the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 18-20 and for acknowledging that Claims 8, 9, 16, and 17 are allowable. Claims 1-7 and 10-15 have been rejected. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. The allowable subject matter of claim 8 has been included in the independent claim 1, thus claim 1 is now allowable. The allowable subject matter of claim 16 has been included in the independent claim 12, thus the claim 12 is now allowable. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection under 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7 and 10-15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Koch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,343,507). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 8, thus claim 1 is now allowable. Thus, the rejection of claims 1-7 and 10-11 is now moot.

Independent claim 12 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 16, thus claim 12 is now allowable. Therefore, the rejection of claims 12-15 is now moot.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is therefore respectfully requested.

Further remarks regarding the asserted relationship between Applicant's claims and the prior art are not deemed necessary, in view of the foregoing discussion. Applicant's silence as to any of the Examiner's comments is not indicative of acquiescence to the stated grounds of rejection.

The cited art of record and not relied upon does not render the present invention anticipated or obvious.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of each of the claims is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attorney Docket No.: BURNS-001
Date: March 26, 2007